

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Resources Building

Director's Conference Room, 11th Floor

Announcements –

Jim Snow announced he will be retiring from Westlands W.D. at end of this month.

SWRCB Activities – (P. Fernandez)-.

The SWRCB is holding a workshop today (April 22) on south Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flow objectives. The workshop is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

12 new petitions have been filed with the SWRCB to transfer water to DWR's Drought Water Bank; the SWRCB will issue a combined notice on the proposed transfers at the end of this month; 1 involves a reservoir release; 1 involves fallowing and the remaining 10 involve groundwater substitutions. The total transfer amount for all 12 combined is 44 TAF; South Sutter is the biggest at 10 TAF; the rest are mostly a couple of TAF.

Ongoing transfer status:

Property Reserve to CCWD (approx. 12.5 TAF) order out by end of this month

Delta Wetlands to MWD (approx. 17.9 TAF) order out by end of July

Temp. Urgency Change RD 108 to Drought Water Banks (6 TAF) want to move water by May 1

Tulare Lake to Westlands order issued in April

South Feather to San Diego WA (approx. 10 TAF) on hold pending refill agreement with DWR

The SWRCB will hold a hearing on the DWR/Reclamation petition for Consolidated Place of Use on April 27

Fisheries Status

(*Chinook*) B. Oppenheim reported that the "take" at export pumps for winter-run and spring-run has been low. Winter-run take is pretty much over, total loss of 1,461 winter-run is very low.

(*Steelhead*) B. Oppenheim reported that the take of steelhead is still continuing, but low; non-clipped take is 321, clipped take is 966; the total take limit for 2009 is 3,000.

(*Green Sturgeon*) B. Oppenheim reported no green or white sturgeon have been seen at the export pumps this year; that's a good thing.

(*Delta smelt*) J. White reported that DFG's 20 mm surveys are starting to catch smaller smelt, mostly in the Barker Slough and North Delta areas, Delta smelt probably began to spawn about a month ago.

(*Longfin Smelt*) J. White reported that juvenile longfin are widely distributed throughout the Delta, the largest numbers are at the confluence of Sac. And San Joaquin Rivers and Suisun Bay, there are some in the central and south Delta also.

Work Group Updates

(*VAMP*) This year is an "offramp" year as defined by the San Joaquin River Agreement Dry Year Relaxation criteria. The projects began implementing the 1:1 ratio of combined pumping to San Joaquin River flow at Vernalis for a 31-day period on April 17. The flow at Vernalis during this period will likely be controlled largely by the water quality standard of 0.7 EC.

(*DAT*) Has been meeting regularly, but no meetings planned now until end of VAMP period around mid-May.

(*WOMT*) Discussions at WOMT have largely involved OMR target flows needed to protect Delta and longfin smelt and operations during the VAMP period.

CVP/SWP Operations Updates

(*CVP*) – Keswick @ 6,750 cfs with separate increases of 250 cfs planned this Saturday and Sunday, Folsom @ 3,250 cfs, Goodwin @ 1100 cfs, Jones PP at approx. 1,000 cfs, Federal share of San Luis approx. 400 TAF. Water allocations currently at 15% for North of Delta ag contractors and 10% for South of Delta ag contractors

(*SWP*) – Oroville at 3,000 cfs, Banks at 1,000 cfs, State share of San Luis approx. 600 TAF.

(*Delta Conditions*) – Freeport approx. 11,000 cfs, Delta Outflow approx. 10,000 cfs, OMR flow (14 day average) approx. -2,000 cfs and (5 day average) approx. -1,000 cfs.